

Message Text

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E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: ETRD, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SINO-SOVIET TRADE

REF: PEKING 1059

1. APPRECIATE REFTEL REPORT. FOLLOWING ARE EXAMPLES OF ASPECTS OF PRC-USSR TRADE ON WHICH MORE INFORMATION WOULD BE USEFUL. WE REALIZE THAT IT MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE OR DESIRABLE TO RAISE SUCH DETAILED QUESTIONS DURING COURTESY CALL, AND LEAVE TO YOUR DISCRETION THE APPROPRIATENESS OF RAISING ANY OF THESE SUBJECTS WITH SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SINO-SOVIET TRADE TOPICS

A. INFORMATION ON RMB/RUBLE EXCHANGE RATE. ARE THERE MULTIPLE RATES? HOW ARE RATES DETERMINED? DOES TRADE

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AGREEMENT STIPULATE RATES? WHAT METHODS OF EFFECTING

SETTLEMENT ARE USED?

B. DOES ANNUAL TRADE AGREEMENT SPECIFY ALL OR NEARLY ALL COMMODITIES TO BE EXCHANGED? IF THERE ARE TRADE IMBALANCES IN A GIVEN YEAR CAUSED BY NON-FULFILLMENT OF AGREEMENT OR LATE DELIVERIES (REFTEL PARA 3A), ARE THEY RESOLVED IN FOLLOWING YEAR'S TRADE AGREEMENT?

C. WHAT METHODS ARE USED TO RESOLVE CONTRACT DISPUTES? ARBITRATION?

D. IS MOST OF USSR/PRC TRADE PRESENTLY BEING TRANSPORTED BY RAIL?

E. WHAT INFORMATION CAN THE SOVIET OFFICIALS PROVIDE ABOUT TRENDS IN EAST EUROPEAN TRADE WITH THE PRC?

F. FOR PRC TRADE FIGURES CONTAINED IN USSR 1972 OFFICIAL TRADE HANDBOOK, THERE IS LARGE RESIDUAL BETWEEN LINE ITEMS AND TOTAL. WHAT IS THE EXPLANATION FOR THIS RESIDUAL? KISSINGER

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